



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Building Small Business in Burbank**

**Burbank, CA** –“Just because you are in business for yourself, doesn’t mean you have to be by yourself!” Board of Equalization Chairman, Jerome E. Horton opens his Small Business Seminar in Burbank the way he always does. “The message here,” he continues, “is convincing start-up business owners that there is help available, and we’re it.”

It works. Last year, the BOE encouraged 192,000 businesses to open their doors.

A veteran host of countless small business meetings, Chairman Horton reads his audiences with such accuracy almost no one goes away disappointed. He also encourages attendees to lean on one another.

“If the bank won’t lend you the money to start your business,” he insists, “find a small business partner. Build coalitions!” he shouts. “When two or more small businesses join forces, their combined efforts grow twice as fast!”

The chairman has plenty of help from other cheerleaders. Experts in lending, The Small Business Administration, IRS agents, Franchise Tax Board representatives, and BOE tax and audit specialists all take turns giving the latest information on the ease of starting a business, but more importantly, staying current on tax compliance.

Burbank is as good a place as any to encourage small business growth. Almost \$7 billion passes through the local economy. Even though the city continues to suffer from entertainment job outsourcing, Horton says, “There are good opportunities here.”

He is even more convincing with the latest projections on the economy. Sales and Use tax collection is up, unemployment is steadily dropping, and state bean counters are now predicting a \$6 billion surplus by the end of the next fiscal year.



By the time he finishes talking, Horton has everyone in the room of the Burbank Public Library standing, shaking hands with one another, and exchanging business cards.

“They won’t even think of quitting after that,” Chairman Horton chuckles to an aide.

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Elected in 2010, Chairman Jerome E. Horton is the Fourth District Member of the California State Board of Equalization, representing more than 8.5 million residents in Los Angeles County. He is also the Board of Equalization’s Legislative Committee Chairman. He is the first to serve on the Board of Equalization with over 21 years of experience at the BOE. Horton previously served as an Assembly Member of the California State Assembly from 2000-2006.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization is a publicly elected tax board. The Board of Equalization collects more than \$53.7 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit [www.taxes.ca.gov](http://www.taxes.ca.gov).

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